

# Focus on 5th



News and Events in the 5th Grade

April 25, 2011

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## Important Dates

Apr 26	Field Trip to Robert Crown
Apr 26	Spelling Bee Final Round
Apr 27	Final Novel Project Due
Apr 28	IAAT testing
May 2	MAP Testing - Reading
May 9	MAP Testing - Math
May 17	Moving On Transition Picnic
May 26	Olympic Day

## Dear Families,

Due to the two snow days used in February, the last day of the 2010-2011 school year will be Tuesday, June 7. Both June 3 and June 6 will be full days of school, while June 7 will feature a shortened schedule.

On Thursday, April 28, all 5th grade students will take the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test (IAAT). Performance on the IAAT is one of the factors that Brooks Middle School will use in determining placement for math in 6th grade. Students who are absent on Thursday will makeup the test on Friday.

As we approach the end of the year there are many exciting events that students have the privilege of participating in. One of these events is the pool trip at the beginning of June. This is a guilders field trip and students must have 400 guilders in order to attend. However, we have emphasized with all students that our expectations regarding behavior and homework completion have not changed. Significant behavior incidents or a decline in academics may result in loss of privileges (including attending the pool trip) regardless of guilders eligibility.

There is one more opportunity to participate in the district's re-registration. Ms. Krikau and Ms. O'Malley will be taking care of this for Holmes School, so please direct any questions to them. The last date for Holmes re-registration will be on Wednesday, April 27 from 5pm - 7 pm.

## SPECIALS

### Spanish

Students have begun to learn a new song for the completion ceremony with lyrics in both English and Spanish! You can hear the song on the Spanish blog.

<http://mpoleski.blogspot.com/p/quintofifth.html>



### Reading/Literature

Students will present their Final Novel Projects to their classmates on **Wednesday, April 27th**. Students should also return their novels to school by Friday, April 29th. If students have lost their novels, they will be responsible for paying a fine.

Students will select their final novel on Monday. In groups, students will be able to create their own reading schedule. We will focus on summarizing as well as mood/tone as students begin to read their new novels.

### Math

This week, we will complete our algebra unit. Today we worked on reading graphs and practiced writing algebraic expressions. We will have a unit test on Friday and will review in class on Wednesday. All 5th grade students will take the IAAT on Thursday.

### Science

This week, we will be discussing the reproductive system. We will be taking our field trip to the Robert Crown Center for Health Education on Tuesday where the students will be learning about puberty. On Wednesday, we will separate the boys and the girls and give them the opportunity to ask any questions they may have. There will be a quiz at the end of this week or early next week on what they have learned. On another note, we will be dissecting sheep hearts within the next few weeks. Please email me if you are interested in helping out!

### Social Studies

Students did an outstanding job on the poster presentations last week! This week, the Civil War tests will be returned to students Monday. We will begin a study of four Shakespeare plays, with an examination of characters and motivation. This study will take place two days each week. We also will continue with our study of history following the Civil War. Look for information in the next week on our last long-term project — an interview project focusing on living history.

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